

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

### DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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September 15, 2009

The Honorable Board of Supervisors County of Los Angeles 383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration 500 West Temple Street Los Angeles, California 90012

**Dear Supervisors:** 

FINDING AND ORDERS OF THE BUILDING REHABILITATION APPEALS BOARD IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF ATHENS (SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 2) (3 VOTES)

#### **SUBJECT**

This action will adopt the finding and orders of the Building Rehabilitation Appeals Board pursuant to Title 26 of the Los Angeles County Code, Building Code, which provides for the arrest and abatement of neighborhood deterioration and the elimination of unsightly, unsafe, and unhealthful conditions, which constitute a public nuisance.

### IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

Adopt the finding and orders of the Building Rehabilitation Appeals Board that provide for abatement of public nuisances at the following location:

1158 West 126th Street, Athens, California 90044

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#### PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The purpose of the recommended action is to provide for abatement of public nuisances through rehabilitation procedures. Title 26 of the Los Angeles County Code, Building Code, provides for a Building Rehabilitation Appeals Board to hear appeals on matters concerning public nuisances.

### <u>Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals</u>

The Countywide Strategic Plan directs the provision of Operational Effectiveness (Goal 1) and Community and Municipal Services (Goal 3) as it provides services to the public that have a wide reaching positive effect on the entire community. The action will provide for the arrest and abatement of neighborhood deterioration and the elimination of unsightly, unsafe, and unhealthful conditions, which constitute a public nuisance.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

There will be no increase in net County cost or negative fiscal impact. Costs of the abatement work are billed to the property owner. Failure to pay the bill will cause a special assessment to be placed on the tax bill and a Notice of Abatement Lien will be recorded against the property with the office of the County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

The Building Code provides for abatement of public nuisances through rehabilitation procedures contained in Chapter 99.

Government Code Section 25845 requires that the property owner(s) be provided an opportunity to appear before the Board and be heard prior to abatement of the nuisance(s) by the County. However, your Board adopted modified procedures that delegated the required hearing to the Building Rehabilitation Appeals Board with the requirement that the Building Rehabilitation Appeals Board make a written recommendation to your Board.

The Building Rehabilitation Appeals Board has conducted the required hearing for the property listed below. The Building Rehabilitation Appeals Board considered all competent evidence and testimony offered by all persons pertaining to the matters of substandard properties. The Building Rehabilitation Appeals Board made a finding of facts in the matter and declared the following property to be a public nuisance.

Your Board may either adopt this finding and orders of the Building Rehabilitation Appeals Board without further notice of hearing or may set the matter for a de novo hearing before your Board.

ADDRESS: 1158 West 126th Street, Athens, California 90044

Finding and Orders: The Building Rehabilitation Appeals Board made a finding that the property is substandard, declared the property a public nuisance, and issued the following orders: (a) that by

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September 18, 2009, the structure(s) be rebuilt to Code,

(b) that the structure be maintained secured and the property be fenced to prevent unauthorized entry, and (c) that the property be maintained clean.

#### List of Defects

- 1. Maintenance of premises so out of harmony and/or conformity with the maintenance standards of adjacent properties as to cause substantial diminution of the enjoyment, use, or property values of such adjacent properties.
- 2. The building was fire damaged, open and accessible to children, and existed as a threat to public safety and welfare, until it was barricaded.
- 3. Doors and windows are broken.
- 4. Portions of the interior and exterior walls are fire damaged and lack a protective coating of paint.
- 5. The ceiling and roof supports or systems are fire damaged.
- 6. Overgrown vegetation and weeds constituting an unsightly appearance.
- 7. Trash, junk, and debris scattered about the premises.

The interior of the building was not accessible for inspection; therefore, additional defects may be found when an interior inspection is made.

## **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

Not applicable.

#### CONCLUSION

The Building Rehabilitation Appeals Board confirmed the County Building Official's finding that the listed property is substandard because it is injurious to health, offensive to the senses, and obstructs the free use of neighboring properties so as to interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of life and property.

Please return one adopted copy of this letter to Department of Public Works, Building and Safety Division.

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Haie Farher

Respectfully submitted,

**GAIL FARBER** 

Director

GF:RP:pc

c: Chief Executive Office (Lari Sheehan)

County Counsel Executive Office